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Synopsis of the scorpions (Scorpiones: Buthidae, Diplocentridae) of Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles, with description of a new species of *Oiclus* Simon, 1880 from La Désirade

ERIC YTHIER (1, *) & THIBAULT RAMAGE (2)

(1) BYG Taxa, 382 rue des Guillates, 71570 Romanèche-Thorins, France.
– E-mail: contact@bygtaxa.com – ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/06FD0852-A88E-49E5-B8E6-E1494B86C4E1 – Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3194-5184

(2) 14 impasse Jeanne Dieulafoy, F-29900 Concarneau, France.
– E-mail: thibault.ramage@hotmail.fr – ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/Authors/8DE31F66-13BF-4516-A205-60F2EA39E3DD – Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5939-7098

* Correspondence.

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Guadeloupe;
La Désirade.

Abstract. – A synopsis is provided for the scorpions of the Guadeloupe archipelago, including diagnoses, illustrations and distribution records. A biodiversity survey recently conducted in three islands of Guadeloupe (La Désirade, Marie-Galante and Les Saintes) allowed the description of a new species of the genus *Oiclus* Simon, 1880: *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**. from La Désirade, possibly endemic from this island. This new taxon raises to height the number of described *Oiclus* species and confirms again that this genus endemic to the Lesser Antilles is more diverse than originally suspected. The number of known scorpion species occurring in the Guadeloupe archipelago is increased to nine. A map of their geographical distribution is presented and a key for their identification is provided. Comments on the conservation status of some species from Guadeloupe are also proposed.

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Introduction

The Guadeloupe archipelago is an overseas French territory in the Lesser Antilles, consisting of six inhabited islands (Grande-Terre, Basse-Terre, Marie-Galante, La Désirade and the two islands of Les Saintes) and many uninhabited islands and islets (among them, the two islets of Petite-Terre and the two islets of Îlets Pigeon, where scorpions are known to occur).

The scorpion fauna of Guadeloupe has long remained unexplored, until the 80s with the work of Sissom & Francke (1983) and Lourenço (1984, 1987), clarifying the identity and distribution of some species from the Lesser Antilles, including Guadeloupe. At this period, four species where known to occur in the archipelago: the pantropical species *Isometrus maculatus* (De Geer, 1778), *Centruroides barbudensis* (Pocock, 1898), widely distributed in the Lesser Antilles from Anguilla to the north up to Les Saintes to the south, *Centruroides pococki* Sissom & Francke, 1983 described from Guadeloupe (from an islet not specified) and also occurring in St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and Dominica), and *Oiclus purvesii purvesii* (Becker, 1880), described from Antigua and reported to also occur in Barbuda, Nevis, Montserrat and Les Saintes (Francke, 1978). Twenty years later, a second species was described in the previously monotypic genus *Oiclus* (Teruel & Francke, 2006; Teruel, 2008), *O. questeli* Teruel, 2008 from Saint-Barthélemy, and several *Oiclus* populations from the Lesser Antilles formerly assigned to *O. purvesii* started to be further studied, with the description of *O. nanus* Teruel & Chazal, 2010 from Grande-Terre, *O. ardens* Ythier, 2019 from Basse-Terre (formerly suggested to be referable to *O. nanus* based on photographs), *O. cousteaui* Ythier, 2019 from Îlets Pigeon, *O. tipunch* Ythier, 2019 from Les Saintes (formerly recorded as *O. purvesii* then suggested to be referable to *O. nanus* based on photographs) and *O. tite* Ythier, Jourdan & Malglaive, 2022 from Petite-Terre (Teruel, 2008; Teruel & Chazal, 2010a,b; Ythier, 2019; Ythier, Jourdan & Malglaive, 2022).

As part of the major nature exploration program *La Planète revisitée* ('Our Planet Reviewed') organized by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris), the Agence Régionale de la Biodiversité des Îles de Guadeloupe and the Office français de la biodiversité, a biodiversity survey was recently conducted in three islands of the Guadeloupe archipelago (La Désirade, Marie-Galante and Les Saintes; Fig. 1), allowing the collection of 23 scorpion specimens belonging to four species: *C. barbudensis*, *C. pococki* and *O. nanus* from Les Saintes and a new species of *Oiclus* from La Désirade, *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**. With the description of this new taxon, the number of species of the genus *Oiclus* is now raised to eight, confirming again that this genus is more diverse than originally suspected. The number of known *Oiclus* species occurring in Guadeloupe is increased to six (excluding one yet unanalyzed population occurring in the island of Marie-Galante) and the total number of known scorpion species occurring in the archipelago is increased to nine.

Reviewer:
Wilson Lourenço (*Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, ISYEB, UMR7205 - CNRS, Paris, France*)
- ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/58448BD6-79D7-46CE-AFDD-91EFF2B7D4EF – Orcid : https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2386-363X

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Material and methods

Measurements and illustrations were made using a Motic SMZ-171 stereomicroscope with an ocular micrometer. Habitus photographs were made with a Canon EOS RP and Adobe Photoshop software. Map was made using Google Maps and Adobe Photoshop software. Presented photographs are not modified except for cropping and addition of black background in habitus illustrations. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations follow Vachon (1974) and morphological terminology mostly follows Hjelle (1990). Part of the material studied herein was collected during the most recent edition of the *La Planète revisitée* ('Our Planet Reviewed') *Iles de Guadeloupe* (**LPRIG**) biodiversity survey that took place between the 30 September and 13 November 2024. Specimens are deposited in the collections of the **MNHN** (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France), **INRAE** (Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement, Petit-Bourg, Guadeloupe, France) and **EYPC** (Eric Ythier Private Collection, Romanèche-Thorins, France).

Taxonomic treatment

Order **Scorpiones** C. L. Koch, 1850

Composition of the scorpion fauna from Guadeloupe (in order of description)

- *Isometrus maculatus* (De Geer, 1778) (Grande-Terre, Basse-Terre)
- *Centruroides barbudensis* (Pocock, 1898) (Grande-Terre, Basse-Terre, La Désirade, Marie-Galante, Les Saintes)
- *Centruroides pococki* Sissom & Francke, 1983 (Grande-Terre, Basse-Terre, Îlets Pigeon, La Désirade, Petite-Terre, Marie-Galante, Les Saintes)
- *Oiclus nanus* Teruel, 2010 (Grande-Terre)
- *Oiclus ardens* Ythier, 2019 (Basse-Terre)
- *Oiclus cousteaui* Ythier, 2019 (Îlets Pigeon)
- *Oiclus tipunch* Ythier, 2019 (Les Saintes)
- *Oiclus tite* Ythier, Jourdan & Malglaive, 2022 (Petite Terre)
- *Oiclus desirade* **sp**. **n**. (La Désirade)

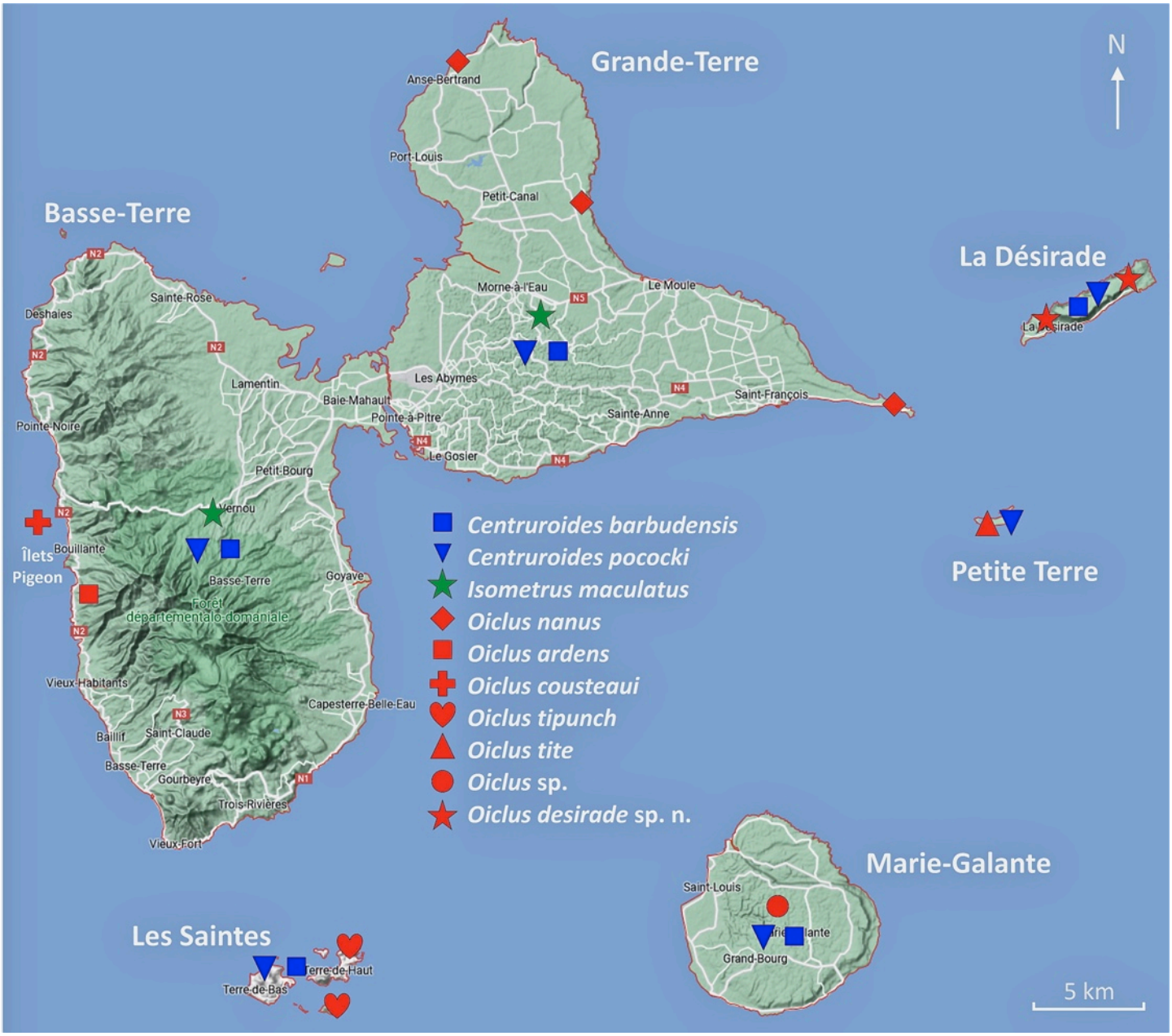

Fig. **1**. Map of the known distribution of scorpion species in the Guadeloupe archipelago (precise localities not indicated for *C. barbudensis*, *C. pococki*, *I. maculatus* and *Oiclus* sp.).

Family **Buthidae** C. L. Koch, 1837

Genus ***Centruroides*** Marx, 1890

Centruroides barbudensis (Pocock, 1898)

(Fig. 2-12)

Material examined (**3** ex.)

Les Saintes

- Terre-de-Haut, Le Chameau, dry forest, **1** ♀, H. Brustel coll., 30/IX-16/X/2024 (No. CHA-HB-03), MNHN;
- Terre-de-Bas, dry forest, **1** ♂, L. Leonetti coll., 30/IX-16/X/2024 (No. AU-LL-02), INRAE;
- Grand Ilet, 15.8359027, -61.5955184, **1** ♀, T. Dubreuil coll., 26/V/2022 (No. 2605-TDU-GI-3), EYPC.

Distribution. – In the Guadeloupe archipelago, *C. barbudensis* has been recorded from Grande-Terre, Basse-Terre, La Désirade, Marie-Galante and Les Saintes (Lourenço, 1984, 1987, 1992; Meurgey, 2011; Dupré & Armas, 2021 and this study) (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length ranging from 50 mm (female) to 65 mm (male); general coloration yellowish with brownish spots on body and appendages; carapace moderately to coarsely granular, anterior margin moderately emarginated, carinae moderately developed; tergites moderately granular, tergites I-VI monocarinate and VII pentacarinate, all carinae strong; pectinal tooth count ranging from 18-21 in female and 19-22 in male; sternites smooth, VII weakly tetracarinate; metasomal segments with 10-8-8-8-5 carinae moderate on segments I-IV, weak to granular on V, intercarinal spaces weakly granular, almost smooth; metasoma elongated in male; telson with tegument almost smooth, subaculear tubercle weak to obsolete; pedipalp femur with five moderate carinae; patella with seven moderate carinae; chela with carinae weak to moderate; dentate margins of fixed and movable fingers with 8 linear rows of granules.

Centruroides pococki Sissom & Francke, 1983

(Fig. 3-13)

Material examined (**12** ex.)

Basse-Terre

- Bouillante, **1** ♀, E. Ythier coll., 24/XII/2016, EYPC;
- Pointe Noire, **1** ♀, **1** pre-adult ♀, J.-B. Lacroix. coll., EYPC.

Petite Terre

- Terre de Bas, Lighthouse, around and in the guards' house, **1** ♀, **2** ♂, T. Jourdan coll., 5-7/III/2022 (No. 221-01/03), MNHN.

Les Saintes

- Terre-de-Bas, dry forest, **1** ♀, **1** pre-adult ♂, L. Leonetti coll., 30/IX-16/X/2024 (No. AU-LL-01), MNHN;
- Terre-de-Bas, Morne Sec, dry forest, **1** ♀, J. Touroult coll., 30/IX-16/X/2024 (No. MOS-HCN-JT-01), EYPC;
- Grand Ilet, coastal vegetation and dry forest, saltworks, **1** unsexed juvenile moult, H. Brustel coll., 30/IX-16/X/2024 (No. GIL-HB-04), INRAE;
- Grand Ilet, 15.838213 -61.5922089, **1** unsexed juvenile, T. Dubreuil coll., 28/V/2022 (No. 2805-TDU-GI-3), EYPC;
- Ilet à Cabrit, 15.87431 -61.59597, **1** pre-adult ♂, T. Dubreuil coll., 04/VI/2022 (No. 0406-TDU-IC-3), EYPC.

Distribution. – In the Guadeloupe archipelago, *C. pococki* has been recorded from Grande-Terre, Basse-Terre, La Désirade, Petite-Terre, Marie-Galante and Les Saintes (Sissom & Francke, 1983; Lourenço, 1984, 1987, 1992; Meurgey, 2011; Schmitt *et al*., 2017; Dupré & Armas, 2021; Ythier *et al*., 2022 and this study) (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length ranging from 65 mm (female) to 75 mm (male); general coloration uniformly reddish yellow to reddish brown, without spots; tergites and pedipalp fingers darker; carapace moderately to coarsely granular, anterior margin moderately emarginated, carinae moderately developed; tergites coarsely granular, tergites I-VI monocarinate and VII pentacarinate, all carinae strong; pectinal tooth count ranging from 19-22 in female and 20-23 in male; sternites smooth, VII weakly tetracarinate; metasomal segments with 10-8-8-8-5 carinae moderate on segments I-IV, weak to granular on V, intercarinal spaces with coarse granulation; metasoma elongated in male; telson with ventral surface densely granular, subaculear tubercle weak to obsolete; pedipalp femur with five moderate carinae; patella with six moderate carinae; chela with carinae weak to moderate; dentate margins of fixed and movable fingers with 8 linear rows of granules.

Genus ***Isometrus*** Marx, 1890

Isometrus maculatus (De Geer, 1778)

(Fig. 4)

Material examined (**1** ex.)

Basse-Terre

- Pointe Noire, **1** ♀, J.-B. Lacroix coll., EYPC.

Distribution. – In the Guadeloupe archipelago, *I. maculatus* has been recorded from Grande-Terre and Basse-Terre. Considering the pantropical distribution and adaptive capacity of this opportunistic species, its presence on other islands of the archipelago is highly probable. (Lourenço, 1987, 1992; Dupré, 2006; Meurgey, 2011; Lourenco & Cloudsley-Thompson, 2012 and this study) (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length ranging from 45 mm (female) to 60 mm (male); general coloration yellowish to pale yellow marbled with blackish-brown spots; legs yellowish with diffuse brownish spots; pedipalp fingers reddish brown; carapace coarsely granular with a few smooth patches, anterior margin strongly emarginated with an open V-shaped angle, carinae weakly developed; tergites moderately granular, median carinae weak to moderate on I-VI, tergite VII with two lateral pairs of carinae moderate to strong; pectinal tooth count ranging from 17-19 in female and 16-19 in male; sternites smooth and shiny, VII with four granular carinae; metasomal segments with 10-10-8-8-5 crenulate carinae, intercarinal spaces very weakly granular to smooth; metasoma very elongated in male; telson very weakly granular, almost smooth, with one vestigial ventral carina, subaculear tubercle marked and triangular, with 2 granules on the ventral surface; pedipalp femur with all carinae crenulate; patella with seven crenulate carinae; chela with vestigial carinae; dentate margins of fixed and movable fingers with 6 linear rows of granules.

Family **Diplocentridae** Karsch, 1880

Genus ***Oiclus*** Simon, 1880

Oiclus nanus Teruel, 2010

(Fig. 5, Tab. I-II)

Material examined (**2** ex.)

Grande-Terre

- Le Moule, Anse Sainte Marguerite, **1** juvenile ♂, 13/IV/1999, MNHN;
- Saint-François, Pointe des Châteaux, **1** ♀, II/2010, EYPC.

Distribution. – All collected specimens of *O. nanus* were found in the island of Grande-Terre, Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles (Teruel & Chazal, 2010a,b; Ythier *et al*., 2022). This species appears to be possibly endemic from this island (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length 21-31 mm for female and 20-23 mm for male; general coloration yellowish brown, marked with dark brownish variegated spots; legs yellowish with brownish spots; pedipalps yellowish brown with brownish spots, chela fingers darker than manus; carapace longer than wide in female, as long as wide to longer than wide in male, with tegument smooth and shiny; median eyes

separated by less than one ocular diameter in both sexes; pectines with 6-6 teeth in female and 7-7 teeth in male, fulcra present; metasoma with segment I wider than long in both sexes, II wider than long in female and longer than wide in male, III as wide as long in female and longer than wide in male, IV-V longer than wide in both sexes; metasomal segment II length/width ratio 0.82-0.88 in female and 1.03 in male, segment III length/width ratio 1.0 in female and 1.13-1.18 in male; telson with vesicle moderately elongated in both sexes with telson length/depth ratio 2.36-2.41 in female and 2.40-2.64 in male; pedipalp chela robust in both sexes with length/width ratio 2.44-2.48 in female and 2.06-2.15 in male; chela manus tegument shiny with minute punctuation in female, granular in male; chela fingers proportionally moderately short in both sexes; leg modal tarsal spine formula 3/3 : 4/4 : 5/5 : 5/5.

Oiclus ardens Ythier, 2019
(Fig. 6, Tab. I-II)

Material examined (**10** ex.)

Basse-Terre

- Bouillante, **1** ♀ holotype, **1** ♀ paratype, **1** ♂ paratype, **2** juvenile ♀ paratypes, K. Thomas coll., II/2010, MNHN;
- Bouillante, **2** juvenile ♀ paratypes, **1** juvenile ♂ paratype, K. Thomas coll., XI/2009, MNHN;
- Bouillante, **1** ♀ paratype, K. Thomas coll., II/2010, EYPC;
- Bouillante, **1** ♀ paratype, K. Thomas coll., XI/2009, EYPC.

Distribution. – All collected specimens of *O. ardens* were found in the west of the island of Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles (Ythier, 2019). This species appears to be possibly endemic from this island (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length 24-26 mm for female and 19 mm for male; general coloration yellowish, marked with brownish variegated spots; legs and pedipalps yellowish with brownish spots, chela fingers not darkened; carapace approximately as long as wide in both sexes with tegument smooth and shiny; median eyes separated by one ocular diameter (female) to more than one ocular diameter (male); pectines with 6-7 teeth in female and 7-7 teeth in male, fulcra present; metasoma with segments I-II wider than long, III as wide as long and IV-V longer than wide in both sexes; metasomal segment II length/width ratio 0.88 in female and 0.81 in male and segment III length/width ratio 1.00 in female and both sexes; telson with vesicle rounded in female and moderately elongated in male with telson length/depth ratio 2.00-2.08 in female and 2.40 in male; pedipalp chela moderately robust in both sexes with length/width ratio 3.33-3.54 in female and 3.23 in male; chela manus tegument with minute punctuation in both sexes; chela fingers proportionally moderately short in both sexes; leg modal tarsal spine formula 3/3 : 4/4 : 5/5 : 5/5.

Oiclus cousteaui Ythier, 2019
(Fig. 7, Tab. I-II)

Material examined (**3** ex.)

Îlets Pigeon

- Grand Îlet, valley, under stones, **1** ♀ holotype, 29/VI/2001, MNHN;
- Grand Îlet, small peak, pitfall trap, **1** ♂ paratype, 29/VI/2001, MNHN;
- Grand Îlet, valley, under stones, **1** juvenile ♀ paratype, 29/VI/2001, EYPC.

Distribution. – All collected specimens of *O. cousteaui* were found in the islet of Grand Îlet, Îlets Pigeon, Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles. The species appears to also occur on the other small islet of Îlets Pigeon (Petit Îlet) and is possibly endemic from both islets (Meurgey *et al*., 2011; Ythier, 2019). The population from Petit Îlet was not studied, however (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length 27 mm for female and 23 mm for male; general coloration yellowish, marked with light brownish variegated spots; legs yellowish without darker spots; pedipalps yellowish brown without darker spots, chela fingers darker than manus; carapace approximately as long as wide in female and longer than wide in male, with tegument smooth but not shiny; median eyes separated by one ocular diameter in both sexes; pectines with 6-7 teeth in female and 7-7 teeth in male, fulcra present; metasoma with segments I-II wider than long and III-V longer than wide in both sexes; metasomal segment II length/width ratio 0.94 in both sexes, segment III length/width ratio 1.06 in both sexes; telson with vesicle rounded in female and elongated in male with telson length/depth ratio 2.08 in female and 2.89 in male; pedipalp chela moderately robust in both sexes with length/width ratio 3.85 in female and 3.13 in male; chela manus tegument with minute punctuation in female, granular in male; chela fingers proportionally moderately short in female and very short in male, especially the fixed finger; leg modal tarsal spine formula 3/3 : 4/4 : 5/5 : 5/5.

Oiclus tipunch Ythier, 2019
(Fig. 8, Tab. I-II)

Material examined (**5** ex.)

Les Saintes

- Terre-de-Haut, Morne Morel, **1** ♀ holotype, **1** ♂ paratype, X/2009, MNHN;
- Terre-de-Haut, Morne Morel, **1** juvenile ♀ paratype, X/2009, EYPC;
- Terre-de-Haut, Grand Îlet, coastal vegetation and dry forest, saltworks, **1** ♀, T. Jourdan coll., 30/IX-16/X/2024 (No. GIL-TJ-15), MNHN;
- Terre-de-Haut, Grand Îlet, coastal vegetation and dry forest, saltworks, **1** ♀, 30/IX-16/X/2024 (No. GIL-EXL-01), INRAE.

Distribution. – All collected specimens of *O. tipunch* were found in the islands of Terre-de-Haut and Grand Îlet, Îles des Saintes, Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles (Ythier, 2019). This species appears to be possibly endemic from Les Saintes (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length 26-27 mm for female and 23 mm for male; general coloration yellowish brown, marked with brownish variegated spots; legs yellowish with brownish spots; pedipalps yellowish brown with brownish spots, chela fingers darker than manus; carapace as long as wide in both sexes with tegument smooth and shiny; median eyes separated by more than one ocular diameter (female) to one ocular diameter (male); pectines with 6-7 teeth in female and 7-7 teeth in male, fulcra present; metasoma with segments I-III wider than long and IV-V longer than wide in both sexes; metasomal segment II length/width ratio 0.82 in female and 0.83 in male, segment III length/width ratio 0.94 in both sexes; telson with vesicle moderately elongated in both sexes with telson length/depth ratio 2.17 in female and 2.70 in male; pedipalp chela moderately robust in both sexes with length/width ratio 3.07 in female and 3.00 in male; chela manus tegument shiny with minute punctuation in female, granular in male; chela fingers proportionally moderately short in both sexes; leg modal tarsal spine formula 3/3 : 4/4 : 5/5 : 5/5.

Oiclus tite Ythier, Jourdan & Malglaive, 2022
(Fig. 9-14, Tab. I-II)

Material examined (**3** ex.)

Petite-Terre

- Terre de Bas, Lighthouse, in the dry forest nearby, under rocks, **1** ♀ holotype, **1** ♂ paratype, **1** juvenile ♂ paratype, T. Jourdan coll., 5-7/III/2022 (No. 221-01), MNHN.

Fig. **2**-**11**. Scorpions of the Guadeloupe archipelago, female habitus.

2. *C. barbudensis*. **3**. *C. pococki*. **4**. *I. maculatus*. **5**. *O. nanus*. **6**. *O. ardens*, holotype. **7**. *O. cousteaui*, holotype. **8**. *O. tipunch*, holotype. **9**. *O. tite*, holotype. **10**-**11**. *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**., holotype. **10**. Dorsal aspect. **11**. Ventral aspect.

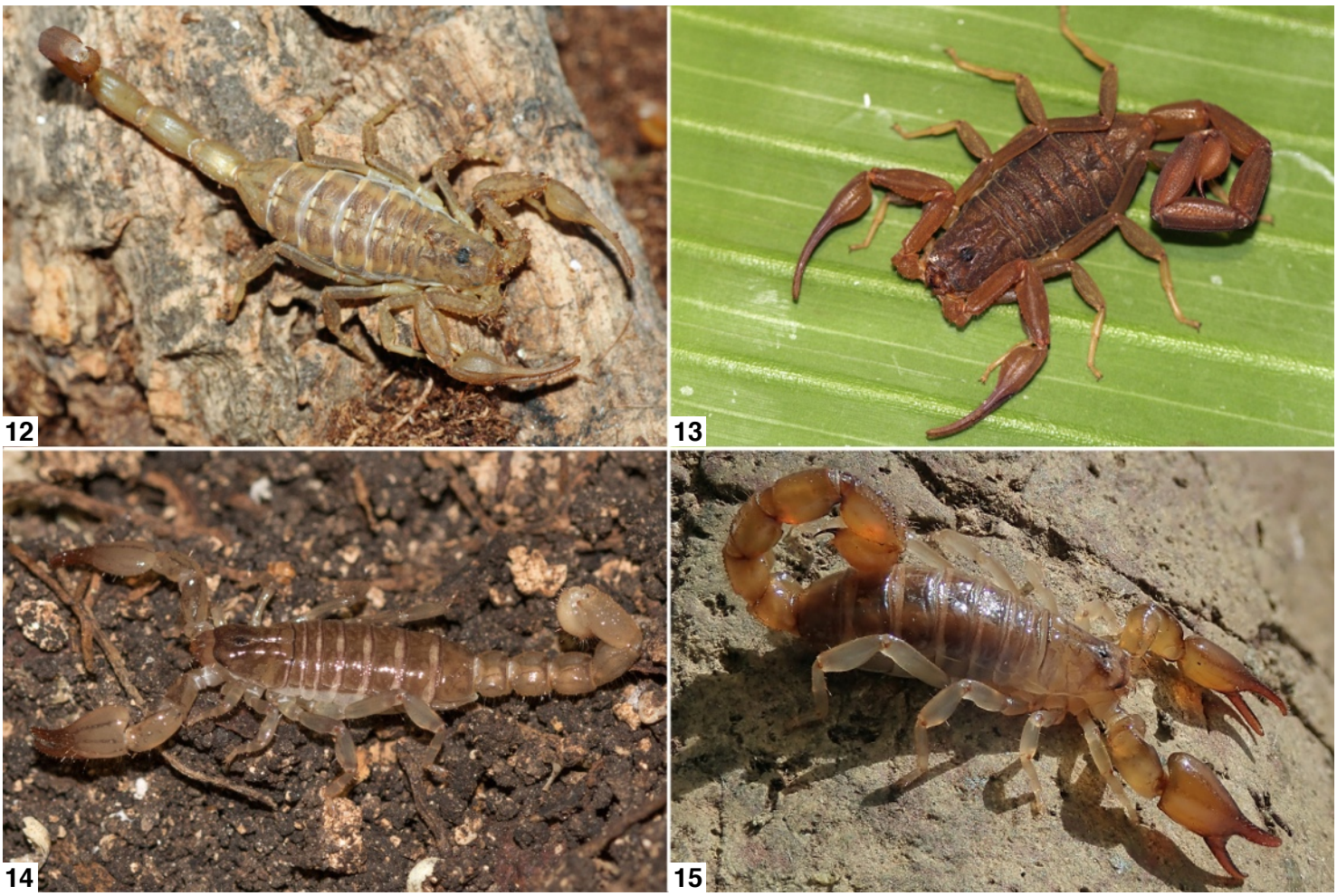

Fig. **12**-**15**. Scorpions of the Guadeloupe archipelago, alive in their habitat.
12. *C. barbudensis*, female. **13**. *C. pococki*, female. **14**. *O. tite*, juvenile. **15**. *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**., female paratype.

Distribution. – All collected specimens of *O. tite* were found in the islet of Terre de Bas, Petite Terre, Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles (Ythier *et al*., 2022). This species probably also occurs in the very close neighboring islet of Terre de Haut (to be confirmed) and appears to be possibly endemic from Petite Terre (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis. – Total length 24 mm for female and 25 mm for male; general coloration yellowish brown, marked with brownish variegated spots; legs and pedipalps yellowish with brownish spots, chela fingers darkened; carapace as long as wide in female, longer than wide in male, with tegument smooth and shiny; median eyes separated by less than one ocular diameter in both sexes; pectines with 6-6 teeth in female and 7-8 teeth in male, fulcra present; metasoma with segments I-II wider than long and III-V longer than wide in both sexes; metasomal segment II length/width ratio 0.85 in female and 0.89 in male, segment III length/width ratio 1.07 in female and 1.02 in male; telson with vesicle rounded in female and moderately elongated in male with telson length/depth ratio 2.15 in female and 2.25 in male; pedipalp chela moderately robust in female and robust in male with length/width ratio 2.95 in female and 2.45 in male; chela manus tegument with minute punctuation in female, granulated in male; chela fingers proportionally moderately short in female, short in male; leg modal tarsal spine formula 3/3 : 4/4 : 5/5 : 5/5.

***Oiclus desirade* sp. n.**

(Fig. 10-11, 15-18, Tab. I-II)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/BB661C16-A7FA-4A21-BCB8-E0C014631647

Holotype, ♀, La Désirade, south of the island, edge between xerophilous forest and grassland, beneath a stone on the ground, A. Horellou coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-AH-401), MNHN.

Paratypes (**15** ex.)

La Désirade, south of the island, edge between xerophilous forest and open grassland, beneath stones on the ground:

- **1** pre-adult ♀, A. Horellou coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-AH-208), MNHN;
- **1** pre-adult ♀, **1** juvenile ♂, T. Ramage coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-TR-22), MNHN;
- **1** juvenile ♂, T. Ramage coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-TR-33), MNHN;
- **1** pre-adult ♀, E. Poirier coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-EP-01), INRAE;
- **1** pre-adult ♀, **1** juvenile ♂, T. Ramage coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-TR-36), INRAE;
- **1** ♀, A. Horellou coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-AH-222), EYPC;
- **1** pre-adult ♂, E. Poirier coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-EP-01), EYPC.

La Désirade, north of the island, edge between xerophilous forest and open grassland, beneath stones on the ground:

- **1** juvenile ♀, A. Horellou coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. PMO-AH-304), MNHN;

- **1** juvenile ♀, **1** juvenile ♂, T. Ramage coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-TR-28), MNHN;

- **2** juvenile ♀, T. Ramage coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-TR-26), INRAE;

- **1** ♀, T. Ramage coll., 30/X/2024-14/XI/2024 (No. AU-TR-30), EYPC.

Distribution. – All collected specimens of *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**. were found in the island of La Désirade, Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles. The new species appears to be possibly endemic from this island (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis (female only, adult male unknown). – Total length 27-30 mm; general coloration brownish yellow, marked with brownish variegated spots; legs and pedipalps yellowish with brownish spots, chela fingers darkened; carapace longer than wide, with tegument smooth and shiny; median eyes separated by more than one (1.3 to 1.7) ocular diameter; pectines with 6-6 teeth in females (7-7 teeth in immature males), fulcra present; metasoma with segments I-II wider than long, III as long as wide to longer than wide, IV-V longer than wide; metasomal segment II length/width ratio 0.93-0.95 and segment III length/width ratio 1.0-1.02; telson with vesicle moderately elongated with telson length/depth ratio 2.13-2.21; pedipalp chela moderately robust with length/width ratio 3.0.4-3.07; pedipalp chela manus tegument with minute granulation dorso-internally; leg modal tarsal spine formula 3/3 : 4/4 : 5/5 : 5/5.

Etymology. – The specific name is placed in apposition to the generic name and refers to island of La Désirade, where the new species was found.

Description based on adult female holotype and adult females paratypes (+ immature females and males paratypes for pectinal tooth count); measurements in table I.

Coloration. – General coloration brownish yellow, marked with brownish variegated spots. Carapace brownish yellow, marked with brownish pigmentation; median ocular tubercle blackish. Tergites brownish yellow with brownish variegated spots, better marked anteriorly on all tergites. Venter and sternites yellowish to yellowish brown; the posterior edge of the sternites slightly lighter. Metasomal segments yellowish with very diffuse brownish pigmentation on dorsal carinae; segments IV-V brownish yellow. Telson brownish yellow; basis of aculeus reddish yellow and tip reddish black. Chelicerae with manus and fingers yellowish with variegated light brown spots; teeth reddish yellow. Pedipalps yellowish with brownish pigmentation on carinae; chela fingers reddish brown. Legs yellowish marked with diffuse light brownish variegated spots.

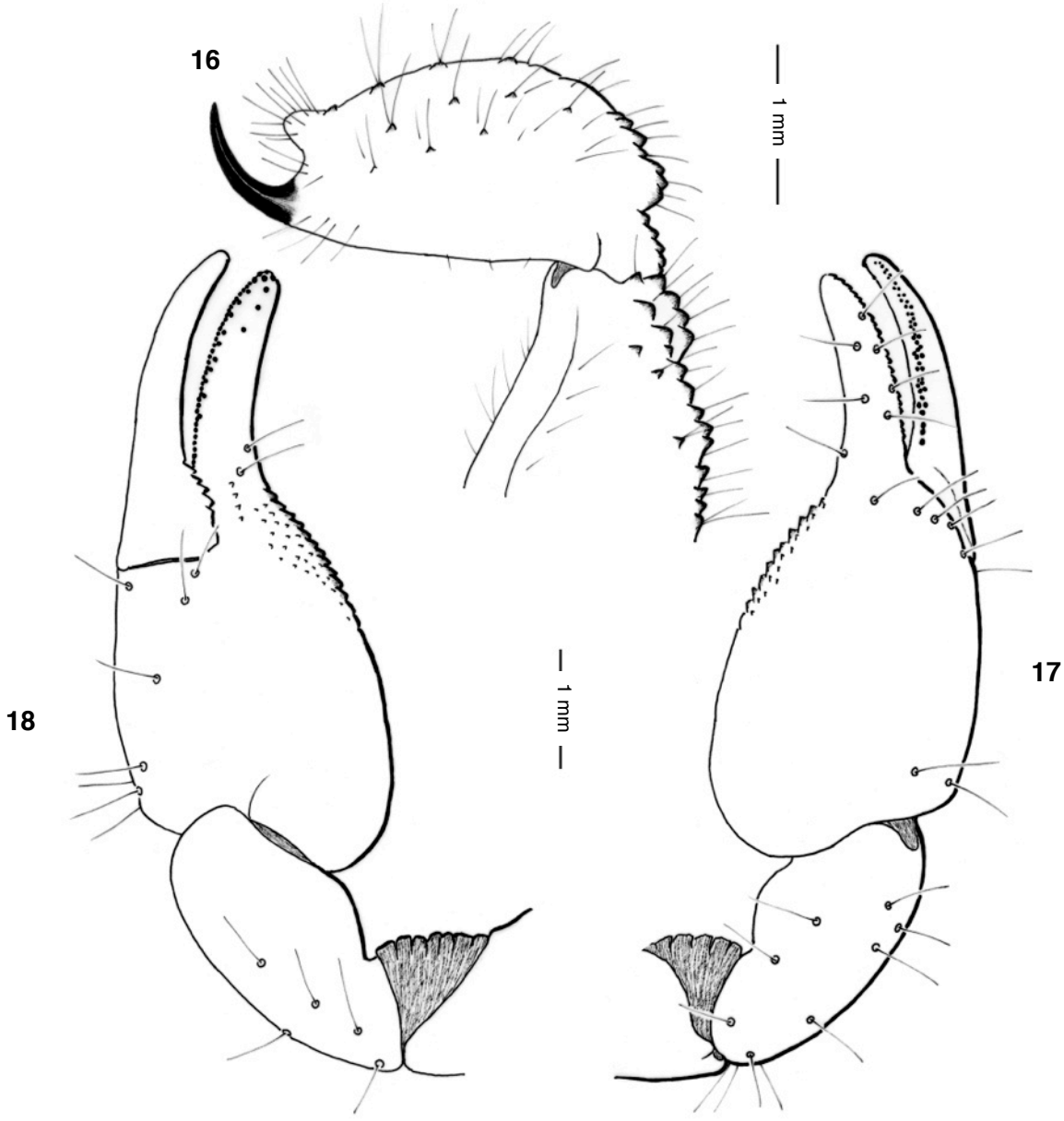

Fig. **16**-**18**. *Oiclus desirade* **sp**. **n**., female holotype.

16. Telson, lateral aspect. **17**-**19**. Trichobotrial pattern of patella and chela. **17**. Dorso-lateral aspect. **18**. Ventro-internal aspect.

Morphology. – Carapace longer than wide; 4-5 pairs of macrosetae on the anterior margin; frontal lobes wide and rounded with frontal notch wide and shallow; tegument smooth and shiny; furrows obsolete except for the lateral ocular, posterior median, posterior lateral and posterior marginal, which are narrow and deep; median ocular tubercle with eyes separated by more than one (1.3 to 1.7) ocular diameter (also in pre-adult male); two pairs of lateral eyes. Tergites moderately granulated and shiny, with some bigger granules on their posterior part; tergites with a vestigial to weakly marked median carina, tergite VII with two pairs of lateral carinae. Sternum pentagonal, as long as wide. Pectinal tooth count 6-6 in female, 7-7 in male; fulcra present. Sternites smooth and shiny, sternite VII with four weakly marked carinae. Metasomal segments with intercarinal tegument smooth and shiny, with few granules on segment V; segments I-II wider than long, III as long as wide to longer than wide, IV-V longer than wide; segments I to V with 10-10-10-8-5 carinae, respectively. Telson with vesicle moderately elongated, smooth and shiny, with some granules on ventral and lateral sides; subaculear tubercle large, covered by many setae; aculeus short and strongly curved. Pedipalp femur with dorso-internal and ventro-internal carinae vestigial, irregularly granular, ventro-external carina absent; tegument smooth and shiny with few granules on dorsal surface. Pedipalp patella with all carinae vestigial except the dorso-internal carina, moderate; tegument smooth and shiny. Pedipalp chela manus with all carinae vestigial to absent; tegument shiny, with minute granulation dorso-internally. Legs with pedal spurs absent; tarsal spine formula 3/3 : 4/4 : 5/5 : 5/5. Chelicerae with dentition typical of the family (Vachon, 1963). Trichobothriotaxy of type C, orthobothriotaxic (Vachon, 1974).

Comparisons. – *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**. is undoubtedly closely related to *O. nanus* described from Grande-Terre and *O. tite* described from Petite-Terre. The new species can however be distinguished from these two species, as well as from the other species of *Oiclus* occurring in the Guadeloupe archipelago, by the following main features in female specimens:

(**i**) total length 27-30 mm (smaller size in *O. tite* with 24 mm and *O. ardens* with 24-26 mm);

(**ii**) general coloration brownish yellow with brownish spots on body and appendages (slightly darker, yellowish brown in *O. tite*, yellowish with light brownish spots on body but not on appendages in *O. cousteaui*) with chela fingers darker than manus (fingers not darkened in *O. ardens*);

(**iii**) carapace longer than wide (as long as wide in *O. tite* and *O. tipunch,* as long as wide to wider than long in *O. ardens,* wider than long in *O. cousteaui*);

(**iv**) carapace with median eyes separated by more than one (1.3 to 1.7) ocular diameter (less than one ocular diameter in *O. tite* and *O. nanus*, one ocular diameter in *O. ardens* and *O. cousteaui*) and with tegument shiny (not shiny in *O. cousteaui*);

(**v**) metasomal segment III as long as wide to longer than wide (wider than long in *O. tipunch*);

(**vi**) telson vesicle moderately elongated with telson length/depth ratio 2.13-2.21 (more elongated in *O. nanus* with 2.36-2.41, more rounded in *O. ardens* with 2.00-2.08 and *O. cousteaui* with 2.08);

(**vii**) chela moderately slender with length/width ratio 3.04-3.07 (more robust in *O. nanus* with 2.44-2.48 and *O. tite* with 2.95, slenderer in *O. ardens* with 3.33-3.54 and *O. cousteaui* with 3.85).

All collected male specimens of *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**. were pre-adult or juveniles so they could not be included in the comparison with other species of *Oiclus*. Further survey should hopefully allow the description of the adult male, bringing additional morphological information about this new species.

***Ecological characteristics of the type localities of O. desirade* sp. n.** – During the *La Planète Revisitée* field trip in La Désirade, from the 2nd to the 11th of November 2024, several sites were visited by the terrestrial team composed of eight entomologists. These sites range from the seashore to the highest parts of the island. *Oiclus desirade* **sp**. **n**. was found at two sites in the south and north of the island, both sharing the same type of habitat: a mosaic of low vegetation areas and patches of xeric forest (Fig. 19, 21). The scorpions were found exclusively under stones that were slightly or not at all embedded in the soil, located at the edge between low vegetation areas and forest patches (Fig. 20, 22). Stones, even when ideally embedded, but located entirely within open or closed areas, did not host *Oiclus desirade* **sp**. **n**. Urban and peri-urban areas, the eastern tip of the island with very sparse vegetation and no trees, as well as the plateau covered with xerophilous forest, do not appear to be suitable for the new species, despite targeted searches by entomologists.

Conservation. – The habitats likely to host *Oiclus desirade* **sp**. **n**. in La Désirade represent two areas of approximately 0.5 km² each, for a total area of 1 km², on an island of 21.42 km². The species is not rare in these two areas, and a reasonable estimate for the two populations would range from 100 to 200 mature individuals. Since the species was only recently discovered, the dynamics of the populations are unknown, as well as a precise estimate of the existing mature populations. The environment in which *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**. lives is highly sensitive to fire and could easily be destroyed in the event of a fire on the island. Goats are present in both areas where the new species resides, and they likely help maintain the open areas that define the habitat mosaic favored by this scorpion. In order to define the IUCN Red List category for *Oiclus desirade* **sp**. **n**. (UICN, 2012), a study of the populations and the risks facing this species is recommended. Similarly, the populations of *O. tipunch*, *O. tite*, and *O. cousteaui*, which inhabit areas of respective sizes 6.48 km², 1.48 km², and 0.08 km², would also deserve to be studied for conservation purposes.

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Table I. Comparative table of morphometric values (mm) and selected ratios of adult females of the *Oiclus* species from Guadeloupe.

	O. nanus	***O. ardens***	***O. cousteaui***	***O. tipunch***	***O. tite***	***O. desirade* sp. n.**	
Specimens	n = 2	n = 4	n = 1	n = 3	n = 1	Holotype	Paratypes (n=2)
Total length	21.20-30.80	24.20-25.90	26.50	26.00-26.63	24.08	27.57	27.04-30.17
Carapace							
- length	3.05-3.70	2.80-3.50	3.30	3.00-3.12	3.26	3.44	3.30-3.53
- posterior width	2.90-3.60	2.90-3.30	3.10	3.00-3.12	3.26	3.30	3.21-3.40
Mesosoma length	7.00-12.50	9.60-11.90	11.00	11.50-11.60	8.20	10.88	10.0-13.13
Tergite VII lenght	1.50-2.10	1.50-1.50	1.60	1.60-1.81	1.67	2.33	2.14-2.51
Metasoma length (including telson)	11.65-14.60	11.10-11.80	12.2	11.40-12.01	12.62	13.25	13.51-13.74
Metasomal segment I							
- length	1.30-1.60	1.30-1.50	1.50	1.30-1.40	1.44	1.58	1.49-1.63
- width	1.85-2.40	1.80-1.90	1.90	1.80-2.00	2.12	2.19	2.05-2.19
Metasomal segment II							
- length	1.50-1.80	1.40-1.50	1.60	1.40-1.59	1.63	1.77	1.77-1.81
- width	1.70-2.20	1.60-1.70	1.70	1.70-1.89	1.91	1.91	1.86-1.91
Metasomal segment III							
- length	1.65-2.00	1.50-1.60	1.70	1.60-1.72	1.91	1.86	1.79-1.91
- width	1.65-2.00	1.50-1.60	1.60	1.70-1.81	1.79	1.86	1.77-1.88
Metasomal segment IV							
- length	2.00-2.60	1.70-1.90	2.00	2.00-2.14	2.16	2.37	2.37-2.71
- width	1.60-1.90	1.50-1.60	1.60	1.70-1.77	1.77	1.77	1.74-1.77
Metasomal segment V							
- length	2.55-3.30	2.60-2.70	2.70	2.50-2.60	2.74	2.79	2.84-3.12
- width	1.45-1.80	1.50-1.50	1.50	1.60-1.63	1.70	1.67	1.63-1.72
Telson							
- total length	2.65-3.30	2.40-2.70	2.70	2.56-2.60	2.79	2.88	2.79-3.02
- vesicle length	1.90-2.60	2.10-2.40	2.30	2.09-2.20	2.33	2.21	2.19-2.35
- vesicle width	1.50-1.80	1.40-1.60	1.60	1.53-1.60	1.72	1.67	1.58-1.63
- vesicle depth	1.10-1.40	1.20-1.30	1.30	1.16-1.20	1.30	1.35	1.26-1.40
- aculeus length	0.70-0.75	0.30-0.30	0.40	0.40-0.51	0.46	0.63	0.60-0.67
Pedipalp							
- femur length	2.00-2.30	1.70-1.80	1.80	1.60-2.09	2.19	2.14	2.14-2.28
- femur width	0.95-1.30	0.90-1.10	0.80	1.16-1.20	1.12	1.07	1.16-1.21
- patella length	2.35-2.80	1.90-2.30	2.30	2.20-2.60	2.33	2.65	2.54-2.65
- patella width	1.00-1.30	1.00-1.10	0.90	1.16-1.20	1.16	1.26	1.21
- chela length	4.15-6.20	4.60-5.00	5.00	4.60-4.74	4.93	5.10	5.00-5.38
- chela width	1.70-2.50	1.30-1.50	1.30	1.50-1.63	1.67	1.67	1.63-1.77
- chela depth	1.75-2.60	2.10-2.30	2.20	2.20-2.28	2.33	2.19	2.19-2.28
- movable finger length	2.40-3.10	2.30-2.60	2.50	2.50-2.56	2.42	2.49	2.51-2.70
Morphometric ratios							
- carapace length/width	1.03-1.05	0.89-1.00	0.97	1.00	1.00	1.04	1.03-1.04
- metasomal segment II length/width	0.82-0.88	0.88-0.88	0.94	0.82-0.84	0.85	0.93	0.95
- metasomal segment III length/width	1.00-1.00	1.00-1.00	1.06	0.94-0.95	1.07	1.00	1.01-1.02
- telson length/depth	2.36-2.41	2.00-2.08	2.08	2.17-2.21	2.15	2.13	2.16-2.21
- chela length/width	2.44-2.48	3.33-3.54	3.85	2.91-3.07	2.95	3.05	3.04-3.07

Table II. Comparative table of morphometric ratios for metasomal segments I-V (**W**: wider than long, **A**: as wide as long, **L**: longer than wide) of adult females of the *Oiclus* species from Guadeloupe.

Metasomal segments	***O. nanus***	***O. ardens***	***O. cousteaui***	***O. tipunch***	***O. tite***	***O. desirade* sp. n.**
I	W	W	W	W	W	W
II	W	W	W	W	W	W
III	A	A	L	W	L	A/L
IV	L	L	L	L	L	L
V	L	L	L	L	L	L

Key to the known species of scorpions from Guadeloupe

The following key is proposed for the nine scorpion species occurring in the Guadeloupe archipelago. This key must be considered imperfect, provisional and susceptible to possible exceptions; hence it is to be used with caution and should not be the only tool for identifying a specimen. If there is any doubt, original descriptions should also be consulted.

1. Large scorpions (adult between 45-70 mm); pedipalp patella without ventral trichobothria **2**
– Small scorpions (adult between 19-32mm); pedipalp patella with 3 trichobotria **4**

2. Six rows of granules on dentate margin of pedipalp chela movable finger . . . . . ***I. maculatus*** (De Geer, 1778)
– Height rows of granules on dentate margin of pedipalp chela movable finger **3**

3. General coloration yellowish with brownish spots on body and appendages . . . . . ***C. barbudensis*** (Pocock, 1898)
– General coloration uniformly reddish yellow to reddish brown, without spots . . . . . ***C. pococki*** Sissom & Francke, 1983

4. Female metasomal segment III wider than long . . . . . ***O. tipunch*** Ythier, 2019
– Female metasomal segment III as long as wide or longer than wide **5**

5. Female carapace with median eyes separated by more than one ocular diameter . . . . . ***O. desirade* sp. n.**
– Female carapace with median eyes separated by one or less than one ocular diameter **6**

6. Female metasomal segment III as long as wide **7**
– Female metasomal segment III longer than wide **8**

7. Carapace as long as wide to wider than long; male metasomal segment III as long as wide . . . . . ***O. ardens*** Ythier, 2019
– Carapace longer than wide; male metasomal segment III longer than wide . . . . . ***O. nanus*** Teruel, 2010

8. Carapace with tegument shiny and median eyes separated by less than one ocular diameter; coloration yellowish brown with brownish spots on body and appendages . . . . . ***O. tite*** Ythier, Jourdan & Malglaive, 2022
– Carapace with tegument not shiny and median eyes separated by one ocular diameter; coloration yellowish with light brownish spots on body but not on appendages . . . . . ***O. cousteaui*** Ythier, 2019

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Fig. **19**-**22**. Natural habitat of *Oiclus desirade* **sp**. **n**. in La Désirade. **19**-**20**. South of the island. **21**-**22**. North of the island.

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Authors contribution [1]

Publisher correspondence. – EY
Writing the article. – EY, TR
Description. – EY, TR
Article proofreading. – EY, TR
Bibliographic work. – EY, TR
Material study. – EY, TR
Author of the figures. – EY, TR

[1] **EY** = Ythier E. – **TR** = Ramage T.

Résumé

Ythier E. & Ramage T., 2025. – Synopsis des scorpions (Scorpiones: Buthidae, Diplocentridae) de Guadeloupe, Petites Antilles, avec la description d'une nouvelle espèce de *Oiclus* Simon, 1880 de La Désirade. *Faunitaxys*, 13(23): 1 – 12.

Un synopsis est proposé pour la faune scorpionique de l'archipel de la Guadeloupe, incluant des diagnoses, illustrations et données de distribution. Un inventaire de biodiversité récemment conduit dans trois îles de l'archipel (La Désirade, Marie-Galante et Les Saintes) a permis la description d'une nouvelle espèce du genre *Oiclus* Simon, 1880 : *O. desirade* **sp**. **n**. de La Désirade, possiblement endémique de cette île. Ce nouveau taxon porte à huit le nombre d'espèces décrites pour le genre *Oiclus* (l'une d'elles étant polytypique) et confirme de nouveau que la diversité de ce genre endémique des Petites Antilles est plus importante qu'originellement suspectée. Le nombre d'espèces connues de scorpions présentes dans l'archipel de la Guadeloupe est porté à neuf. Une carte de leur répartition est présentée et une clef d'identification est proposée. Des commentaires sur le statut de conservation de certaines espèces de Guadeloupe sont également proposés.

Mots-clés. – Scorpions, Buthidae, Diplocentridae, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, morphologie, endémisme, conservation, Guadeloupe, La Désirade.

Derniers articles publiés

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Illustration de la couverture :

Beach of La Caravelle, Grande-Terre, Guadeloupe.

Crédits:

Eric Ythier : Fig. 1-13, 16-18, couverture.
Thibault Ramage : Fig. 15, 19-22.
Laurent Malglaive : Fig. 14.

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